



EHMHA Board Meeting

September 20, 2026 7:00PM

Bannister Room, East Hants Sportsplex

Attendees: Greg Heard, James Thompson, Evan Taylor, Mariah Allison-Sokolic, Krystal Kristiansen, Brennen Hartling, Adam Gillis, Katie Muise

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** by Greg Heard
 - Meeting called to order at 6:55PM
 - Agenda approved without objection
2. **Ratification of board meeting minutes from August 16 and August 23, 2026**
 - Approved
3. **President's Update** by Greg Heard
 - Greg provided an update following recent discussions with the Central Minor Hockey League. Discussion included the structure, governance and the possibility of them forming a board.
 - An update was provided regarding player releases and registration numbers. U15 numbers were reported positively and we will be able to support a U15AA team this year.
 - We are planning to host information and education sessions regarding some sensitive subjects with U15 and U18 players.
 - The season is off to a great start. Evaluations are running smoothly. Greg thanked Evan and the rest of the board for the time and effort that has gone into the planning of this.
 - Sackville U13AAA has expressed that they would like to have some of their practices as well as a couple of games at the East Hants Sportsplex. Since the Sackville team may end up with a couple of East Hants players on their team, they thought it would be fun for those players to get to play on their home ice.
 - The Board discussed opportunities to collaborate with neighbouring associations where EHMHA does not have sufficient numbers to offer certain competitive levels. The Board agreed that discussions regarding potential partnerships should begin well in advance of the following season, particularly for age groups where future registration numbers may make it difficult to offer multiple competitive teams.
 - The Board received an update regarding the municipal arena contract. The municipality had responded to questions regarding contract language and ice

allocation. EHMHA currently benefits from a reduced Association ice rate compared with the regular rental rate.

- The Board also discussed broader concerns regarding arena availability throughout the region and the potential impact of facility closures on minor hockey ice availability.

4. **VP Admin Update** by Mariah Allison-Sokolic

- An update was provided regarding the First Shift program. Registration was reported at 28 participants. The program is scheduled to begin in October with the first session being the meet and greet where players will receive their gear. Scheduling was being finalized and would be communicated to families once confirmed.
- The Board reviewed the Association's existing registration payment requirements. Current policy requires 50% of registration fees to be paid before tryouts; however, this has not been enforced since prior to the Covid pandemic.
- The Board discussed improving communication and enforcement for future seasons. Once teams are established, families with outstanding balances will be reminded of payment requirements and the November 15 payment deadline.
- The Board also discussed the possibility of introducing pre-authorized or automatic payment options in future seasons to simplify collection and reduce the need to follow up on outstanding accounts.
- The defective jerseys could not be submitted for warranty replacement within the required timeframe due to insufficient volunteer assistance. As a result, the affected jerseys will be returned to inventory.
- Timbits jerseys have arrived. Medals remain outstanding; however, the Association currently has a supply of medals available if required.
- The Board reviewed the divisional coordinator role and discussed difficulties recruiting volunteers for some divisions. It was noted that the current description of the coordinator position may make the role appear more demanding than it is. The role description will be reviewed to better reflect the actual responsibilities.
- The Board discussed the importance of coordinators having previous team-management experience where possible, as coordinators provide support and guidance to team managers throughout the season.
- Potential candidates for the vacant U11 Coordinator position were discussed. Board members agreed to contact potential candidates and revisit the appointment once availability had been confirmed.
- Mariah asked Greg if he was able to confirm that required insurance coverage is current. Greg advised that he was still waiting for Hockey Nova Scotia to get back to him on this.

5. **VP Hockey Ops Update** by Evan Taylor

- Evan and the board discussed tryouts and described it as being an overall very positive and well organized experience for families.

- The U15 tryouts are going to require some ice time adjustments. This will be communicated to members.
- There have been some parents reaching out wondering about the U11 tryout schedule and player groupings. This information is on the EHMHA website and will be posted to the EHMHA Facebook page.
- The need for parent volunteers in the locker rooms was discussed.

6. **Finance Update** by James Thompson

- James advised that financial reporting is being updated to provide the Board and membership with clearer information regarding the Association's financial position. Monthly reporting will include budgeted amounts, actual expenditures and revenue, and percentages showing performance against budget. This will allow members to better understand registration revenue, ice expenses and other Association expenditures.
- Jodrey & Associates will assist with preparation of the Association's annual financial statements.
- An update was provided regarding previously outstanding accounts. The majority of these accounts are now up to date. Approximately \$7,500 remained in the process of being collected.
- Sipekne'katik requested a designated liaison with EHMHA. James volunteered to serve in this role and will continue working to strengthen communication, including providing information regarding registration and additional rep-team costs.
- The Board discussed an outstanding 50/50 prize where contact with the original winner had been unsuccessful. A re-draw has taken place and the winner has been contacted.

7. **Recruiting and Events Update** by Krystal Kristiansen

- Krystal provided an update regarding tournament planning, sponsorship and volunteer recruitment. Sponsorship packages for the Association's tournaments are being consolidated so sponsors can support an individual tournament or both tournaments. Sponsorship levels and opportunities are being reviewed with the goal of increasing fundraising revenue.
- The Board discussed whether rep teams should be included in tournament planning. It was agreed that tournament planning should proceed for divisions already confirmed, while decisions regarding additional teams can be made once team formation is complete.
- The Board also discussed community engagement opportunities for teams, including initiatives allowing players to give back to the community and recognize their sponsors.
- Potential sponsorship opportunities with businesses involved in nearby residential development were discussed.

- The Board also discussed incorporating community and cultural elements into tournaments, including potential collaboration with local Indigenous communities for tournament ceremonies or activities.
- Volunteer information collected through the Association's volunteer form will be used to identify potential managers, treasurers and other volunteers once teams are established.

8. Director-At-Large Update by Brennen Hartling

- The Board discussed holding a parent meeting for the U11 AA team following final roster selection. The purpose of the meeting will be to answer questions regarding the coaching structure and season, and proactively address concerns.
- The Board discussed the draft discipline and complaint policy currently under development. The draft will be circulated to the Board for further review before approval.
- The Board discussed concerns regarding competitive opportunities for age groups with lower registration numbers. U13 numbers this season were not sufficient to reasonably support multiple competitive teams. The Board agreed that future planning should begin earlier to explore partnerships or joint-team arrangements with neighbouring associations where appropriate. The issue may also be discussed with membership as part of future planning so families understand the options being explored.
- The Board discussed its process for responding to member emails when Hockey Nova Scotia is copied on correspondence. Historically, the Association has sometimes refrained from responding when Hockey Nova Scotia was included. The Board discussed concerns that this practice can leave members feeling that their concerns have not been acknowledged. There was general agreement that members should, at the very least, receive confirmation that their correspondence has been received and that concerns should ordinarily proceed through the Association's established complaint process before being escalated externally. The Board discussed incorporating this process into the revised discipline/complaint policy so members have a clear understanding of the appropriate communication channels.

9. Any Other Business by All Board Members

- The Board discussed requirements associated with the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stock Companies, including maintaining current filings and ensuring filings are appropriately submitted. Registry information/access required for filings will be provided to the appropriate Board members.
- Potential additional costs associated with non-parent coaches, including travel expenses, were discussed. The Board noted that applicable expenses are governed by Association policy and can be managed through team budgeting.
- On September 14, 2026, the Board conducted an electronic vote regarding the removal of the sibling release provision from the EHMHA Registration Policy.

Motion: Mariah Allison-Sokolic motioned to remove the provision stating that when one player in a family is approved for release from EHMHA for reasons other than playing at a higher level than EHMHA offers, all players within that family must also be released from the Association.

Seconded by: Katie Muise

Vote Result: CARRIED

Board of 8 members; 7 eligible to vote. Five responses were received, with four votes in favour. Quorum and the required majority were met. The sibling release provision was therefore removed from the EHMHA Registration Policy effective September 14, 2026.

Action Items:

- **Katie Muise** to post an additional promotion of First Shift
- **Adam Gillis** to speak with potential U11 Coordinator candidate.
- **Mariah Allison-Sokolic** to review and update the divisional coordinator role description.
- **Katie Muise** to post U11 tryout schedule and player groupings link to Facebook

Meeting Adjourned: 8:56PM

Next Meeting: Board Meeting October 18, 2026